

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, at line 22as shown below:

With switching position detection apparatus 1, four switching positions of the switching element can be implemented. FIG. 1a shows the first switching position in which both light receivers 5, 6 are exposed to light from light source 3. As such, the ~~first~~ first switching position is characterized by an output signal indicating exposure of both light receivers 5, 6 to light source 3. FIG. 1b illustrates the second switching position of the switching element in which light receiver 5 is exposed to light from light source 3 while light receiver 6 is shaded from the light source by a front part 8 of shutter 2. As such, the second switching position is characterized by an output signal indicating a sole exposure of light receiver 5 to light source 3.